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Docket No. 60716 (70904)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Matsushita, et al.

Confirmation: 5739

U.S.S.N.: 10/767,750

Art Unit: 2861

FILED: January 28, 2004

Examiner: Vo, Anh T.N.

FOR: Image forming apparatus

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Label No. EV 754862498 US, Postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 20, 2006.

By:


Helen Murray Tarbi

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the Office Action dated December 20, 2005, claims 1-42 are pending. Election of one of the following patentably distinct species is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 of the claimed invention:

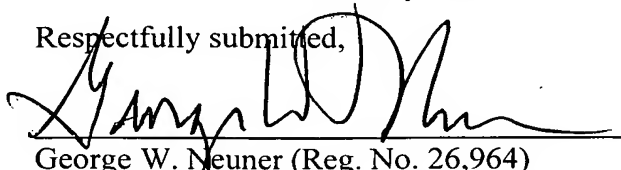
Group 1: Image forming apparatus satisfies: $F' < 1(N.R)$ Group 2: Image forming apparatus satisfies: $D_N < F' < 1(N.R)$ Group 3: Image forming apparatus satisfies: $4.\eta/D_N - |Ph| > 4.\eta/F' > |P\mu| + |Pi|$
 $P\mu = (k/A. \{\mu.L.(N.R)^2/S\}.Q$ Group 4 Image forming apparatus satisfies: $\eta > N.R.B > 2.\gamma.h$

Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group 3, without traverse, for further examination in the present application.

An early examination and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 20, 2006


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